

[1935?]

Brief Review of Screw Worm and Recommendations
For Future Outbreak as Based upon the 1934
Findings in Mississippi. For D.C. Parman, Entomologist
in Charge Screw Worm Control in Mississippi.

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A call was sent out to a few of the workers in Entomology under Dr. Bishop direct supervisor, to report at Gulfport, Mississippi for the formulation of screw worm control plans. The outcome of this meeting terminated in a whole hearted cooperation plan between the above mentioned parties concerned. Without such cooperation it would not have been possible to accomplish what we did.

The entomological personnel present at this meeting under the direction of County Agent Hinds were, Dr. F.C. Bishop and M.P. Jones from Washington, E.W. Laake of Dallas, Texas; D.C. Parman of Uvalde, Texas; and O.G. Babcock of Sanoro, Texas. Mr. Parman was placed in direct charge of the work in Mississippi.

A study of the "screw worm" fly pest soon proved the fly to be very bad in the coast counties and counties of the South-western corners; bad in Wayne, Green, Perry, Forrest, Lamar, Jeff Davis and Covington counties; and ~~an~~ approximate medium infestation in all the territory North to an approximate line extending East from Vicksburg and Jackson to the east boundry; and in all counties north of this line the infestation was considered scarce except possibly at De Kalb.

This survey showed that a real emergency existed in Mississippi during the full season of 1934.

All kinds of domestic animals were found infested with this pest. The sheep were undoubtedly the heaviest losers as many reports showed a death loss of from 25 % to 35 % of the herd. This occurred mainly prior to September 15th. It was brought about by the fact that in Southern Mississippi the open range is the custom. As it is the instinct of a wormy sheep and goat to hide out in the brush and weeds, hence the farmer took a heavy loss before he realized what was wrong.

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Cattle and hogs suffered severely. ~~In the~~ case of cattle the infestations were much higher on the imported relief cattle than on the native stuff, probably 20 % higher. This was due to branding during the fly season and to many of the brands being overburned. Such brands scabbed ~~over~~ heavily, the scab, when loose, exposed bloody and raw tissues hence a very favorable place for the screw worm to "blow". Hogs and calves were heavy losers. A large number of the cases were due to farrowing and calving during the screw worm season.

Many ^{dogs} ~~days~~ were infested and a trace in chickens and cats.

A preliminary report at Hattiesburg showed that out of 2456 animals (all kinds) there were 244 wormy animals or 9.43 per cent infested. This would probably run around 30 to 35 per cent for the season.

Of the above total 1298 were native cattle. One farmer had 194 head of relief cattle, 40 percent of which were wormy.

~~over~~ The cause of many of the screw worm cases traced to: over burning the brands, branding during the fly season, ear tagging, docking, castration, dropping young during the fly season (non-regulated breeding) horn stabs, fighting, crushed gulf coast ticks; barbed wire cuts, snag wounds, sores, warts, infections, horse flies (Tabanide) caked udders, scratches, bruises, etc, and in fact anything that spills the blood.

The method used to ^{disseminate} ~~disseminate~~ the screw worm fly information to the farmer, was ~~to speak~~ before a prearranged meeting arranged for by the County or District Agent then give actual demonstration of treatment, and then in many cases followed by giving all parties, having wormy cases, a small supply of the 90% Benzol, as a killer and of pine tar oil, dehydrated specific gravity 1.065.

The actual treatment consisted of mapping the wound out with a piece of cotton then applying a few drops of the 90% Benzol, or if the wound could be plugged moisten the cotton with Benzol and loosely plug the wound then paint the wound with pure dehydrated pine tar oil. Instructions were then given to examine all treated animals daily, until all wounds are healed.

Farmers were also advised to systematize their breeding schedule so as to have the calves, lambs and pigs drop the advent of the screw worm, that is have all young dropped before the 1st of May.

Three exhibits were shown, one at a County Fair at Hattiesburg, one at Jackson where 5,000 people actually stopped, looked at the exhibit, and read at least some of the labels. The other exhibit was at the Laurel or South Mississippi Fair. Much interest was shown in this exhibit by the farmers. A careful estimate based upon an ^{house} ~~have~~ count showed that approximately 1278 people actually studied the screw worm exhibit the first day. Of this number women represented 27 %, men 41 %, and high school and upper grammar school children 32 %.

^{carcass} ~~carcass~~ An extensive ~~carcass~~ burning campaign was also inaugurated in Harrison County, this to be reported upon by Mr. Parmen.

The open range has proven to be a tremendous handicap in controlling the screw worm fly.

A brief study of the animal situation in relation to the screw worm fly showed that most of the goats 41,381 are common scrub goats the rest being Angoras. (1930 census) There were small bunches of sheep on many of the farms, most of them being undersized and many of them very ~~kip~~kimpy. These sheep are descendants of apparently unknown ancestors and have been allowed to "run back". Most of the native cattle observed is not of standard quality.

In order that the treatment and care of livestock for external as well as internal parasites be profitable the following suggestions are made:

1. That an improvement campaign be put in vogue as soon as financially possible through the Animal Husbandry Department of the Mississippi A.&M. College, and that the breed of Rams and Billies they recommend ~~they~~ be purchased by and used by the State, these rams and Billies be used upon native stock through the County Agent ^{as} on the Animal Husbandry Department see fit.

2. That the Entomological and Veterinary ^{Department} Department cooperate in educating the farmers at the proper time, as to the proper and best methods of controlling external and internal parasites, including screw worm and other blow flies.

3. That the open range be done away with as soon as possible.

4. That an educational campaign be undertaken to encourage the breeding of livestock so that all young be dropped before the screw worm season begin that is not later than May 1 of each year.

5. That all castrating, docking, spaying, branding, dehorning, etc be taken care of before the first of May.

6. That all sheep having head or body scab be dipped and the parasite eradicated as soon as possible.

7. That at least one ^{Entomologist} entomologist donate his time to the study of insects affecting animals including blow flies.

8. That at some future time an educational goat dipping campaign instigated and all goats lice be eradicated, the dip advocated being the sulphur dip as recommended by the U.S. Bureau Entomology and the Texas experiment station co-operating.

9. That the greatest effort be placed upon an educational campaign for each parasite when the time is ripe.

